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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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THE NEW SENATORS

It is quite possible the new Senators elected in the November 4th election will determine the issue of freedom of speech in the U. S. Senate in January. As matters stand today, a parliamentary fight is sure to occur at the opening of the first session of the 86th Congress in the upper legislative body.

The issue is one which has been misrepresented from practically all sides. It concerns Rule XXII in the Senate, which is the rule outlining the methods of ending free speech in the Senate. Opponents of this rule, which is designed to allow a two-thirds majority to put an end to a filibuster, have termed this rule the "filibuster" rule.

Because it has been the vogue in recent years to denounce filibusters and win votes from organized groups by supporting various civil rights bills, and because those who have sometimes been unable to pass civil rights measures in the Senate have felt that Rule XXII allowed opponents to stall such legislation, a cry has gone up to revise or discard Rule XXII.

If the Senate is a continuing body, a tradition which has been accepted for many years, then the rule will be difficult to change. If it is not a continuing body, as opponents of Rule XXII are arguing, then Congress can select its own rules.. The Senate, by virtue of the fact that only one-third of its members are elected each two years, has been considered a contuning body, while the House is a completely new body—all its members being elected or re-elected each two years.

Rule XXII today allows sixty-four Senators to vote an end to freedom of debate. There are eighteen Southerners in the so-called "Dixie bloc" who could be depended upon to filibuster against a civil rights bill they thought unconstitutional. A little arithmetic will show that if these eighteen Senators did filibuster there would be left in the Senate seventy-eight members, any sixty-four of whom could break a filibuster.

One truth which must be obvious to all of us is that the Dixie bloc cannot today, and has not been able in many years, to filibuster any bill to death unless there is considerable support forthcoming, from Senators outside the South. This is generally overlooked in the barrage of criticism of the "filibuster" rule.

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PROGRESS MUST BE VOLUNTARY

The progress of civilization depends upon the cooperation of human beings, but it is essential to understand the neecssity that the cooperation be voluntary and not compulsory.

Voluntary cooperation, based upon the free will of individuals, represents permanent gains for society. Compulsory cooperation, regardless of the pressure that enforces it, inevitably creates individual dissatisfaction and will be dissipated whenever the pressure is lifted.

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KNOW YOUR ROCKETS

Not long ago we had occasion to look over a small booklet listing the names of all the military rockets known to be in construction in the United States. How many would you think there are, in all?

You have probably heard about the Army's Jupiter-C, which threw up two successful satellites, and you are familiar with the Navy's Vanguard program, and you have heard of the Air Force's ICBM, the Atlas, and maybe even the Titan. In addition to this you have read reports of several air-to-air rocket missiles for aircraft, and about certain Navy-built ship-to-air rockets.

You probably would guess, however, that there are some twenty or more different rocket missiles now under construction in the United States.

There are far more! In the old days, when fighter aircraft and bomber aircraft were the weapons of the air, it was relatively easy for a studious reader to keep up with the latest models of combat aircraft, and to know what they could do.

Today, however, the average citizen is almost completely lost, and often confused, in reading about the various rockets. There is the Explorer, the Vanguard, the Jupiter-C, the X-15 manned rocket aircraft, the Genie, the Sparrow, the Sidewinder, the Falcon, the Talos, the Terrier, the Nike-Zeus, the Nike-Ajax, the Hawk, Bomarc, Rascal, Bull Pup, Dart, Little John, Lacrosse, Honest John, Regulus, Mace, Matador, Redstone, Sergeant, Corporal, Thor, Polaris, Atlas, Snark, X-17, Aerobee, Far Side, the Wac-Corporal, the Viking, etc.

Not all of these are actually rocket missiles, and some have only rocket boosters. Nevertheless, the average civilian is unable to keep these various missiles in perspective, much less know how the United States is faring in its competition with Russia.

More and more, the American citizen must depend upon the defense leaders of his government to appraise him of the facts and keep him informed on matters pertaining to national defense. For this reason the government's obligation to tell the truth and give the people the facts, is today all the more compelling.

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A MILD WINTER

One of the wire services recently reported the predictions of a weather bureau expert—one of which was that this winter would be a mild one. The weather bureau expert said that this was indicated because of the severity of the 1957-58 winter.

Weather experts, in many cases, are accusing grounds hogs of being inaccurate weather forecasters, and perhaps this winter we will be able to test this theory. The experts are saying that chances are that this winter will be mild. It will be interesting to see if the ground hogs, the caterpillars or weather experts are right.

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We agree nothing is as bad as active ignorance.

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Appomattox, like most other towns, has its faults; but we prefer to talk about its good points, of which there are many.

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The more money the average Appomattox family spends in Appomattox, the more prosperous will this community become.

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Be as anxious to help others as you are to accept favors.

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About half the people of the world are trying to direct the lives of the other half.

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There is no law that can make you drive carefully, but neither is there any rule to exempt you from paying the consequences of carelessness.

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No excuse is as good as satisfactory performance.

Washington Notes

D. C. MARDI GRAS SET

The Louisiana State Society in the Capital has set February 6 for its big annual Mardi Gras ball.

Dan Broussard, society president said the event will be dedicated to the Louisiana sweet potato industry.

TRIAL SUSPENSION

For the first time since it opened the atomic age thirteen years ago, the United States has begun a trial suspension of nuclear weapons test explosions.

The suspencion may continue for a year, with possible indefinite renewal, or it may last only a few days or even hours. That depends on what Russia does.

FARM EXPORTS

Exports of farm products are holding at levels of the past two years, according to a report from the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Exports of cotton, feed grains, rice, edible vegetable oils and those of wheat, soybeans, flaxseed, fruits and most livestock products were less.

PROGRAM IN FINAL YEAR

A producer - financed program to promote and advertise wool and lamb is moving into its fourth and final year, unless extended by a producer vote.

A referendum will be held next fall to determine whether producers want to continue the program.

FOOD DONATION SYSTEM

Future Government donations of corn meal and flour to the needy in this country will come from private rather than Government surpluses of corn and wheat.

This change is designed to divert the grains into relief uses before they ever reach the Government surpluses stocks. Costs are expected to be lower.

GONE GOOSE?

Uncle Sam is about to join in the effort to keep Hawaii's nene (pronounced nay nay) from being a gone goose.

The Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service is getting ready to propose a research and propagation program to be carried out by the territorial Government under contract.

ON SCIENCE ATTACHES

Nearly a year after proposed by President Eisenhower, the State Department is about to renew its scientific attache program dropped in 1956.

The State Department expects to announce within a few weeks the assignment of a group of scientists to serve in United States embassies.

RECOGNITION OF GUINEA

President Eisenhower has extended formal recognition to the new African nation of Guinea.

Guinea gained independence by rejecting Sept. 28 the Constitution offered to France and her territories by Premier Charles de Gaulle. The new republic's relations with France have not yet been worked out.

SCHOOLS AND SCIENCE AID

All high school and elementary school programs provided for in the four-year $900,000,000 law for aid in science education that was passed by the past Congress will be under way by Dec. 1.

College programs will get off to a slower start. Some student loans are expected to be made early in February, 1959, for second semester expenses. A few research projects in educational television and audio-visual aids will start after Jan. 1.

PACIFIC TIDAL TABLE

Tidal currents of 1959 for the Pacific Coast of North America and Asia are now predicted.

Besides their obvious use as an aid to marine navigation, the tables are indispensable to the engineer engaged in maintenance and improvement of channels and harbors, in marine construction and improvement of beaches, and in the problem of sewage disposal.

DECLINE IN HOG PRICES

The Agricultural Marketing Service, in a review of farm prices and demand, says it expects hog prices to decline the rest of this year and remain below 1958 levels during 1959.

GOOD WATER YEAR DUE

Another good water year is in prospect for the Western irrigated areas.

The Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture reports that water-storage prospects are good for 1959 following a year of good to adequate water supplies in 1958.

BETTER BUSINESS

Although some phases of the recession still linger, the Commerce Department says business has fared better than usual this autumn.

Meanwhile, the Internal Revenue Service reported that despite the recession Federal tax collections during the fiscal year that ended June 30 fell only $200,000,000 below the previous year.

DATES SET FOR PASTURE SCHOOL AT MIDDLEBURG

The annual "pasture school" for dairymen and livestock men will be held February 18 and 19 at the Northern Virginia Pasture Research Station at Middleburg.

Agronomists at VPI say the program on February 18 will be designed especially for livestock men, while the program on February 19 will be of interest primarily to dairymen.

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AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 9-15, 1958

Every November an event known as *American Education Week* is observed throughout the United States. It is an annual report time during which the schools tell their owners, the general public, about their purpose, methods, achievements, needs and problems. This year marks the thirty-seventh annual observance.

American Education Week grew out of a situation during World War I that a shocking percentage of the American people was illiterate and physically unfit. It was in 1921 that the first observance was held. The National Education Association and the newly formed American Legion were its sponsors. In 1922 the United States Office of Education became a co-sponsor. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers became the fourth national sponsor.

The basic purpose of *American Education Week* is to make every American aware of the important role education plays in a democracy and to help him realize that good schools are his personal responsibility. Specific purposes are: to increase public understanding and appreciation of education; to examine the modern school-today's curriculum, current teaching methods and materials; to increase pupil appreciation of their school; to reveal school problems and needs; to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between school and community. These purposes can be achieved by the public visiting the schools, and by the schools explaining their achievements and problems through a variety of means to those who do not visit the schools. Twenty-seven million adults visited their local schools during *American Education Week* in 1957.

Our schools attempt to develop health, command of the fundamental processes, worthy home membership, vocational interests and skills, civic competence, worthy use of time, and ethical character. American schools are for ALL children and the individual child is guided along the pattern of learning that his interest and abilities permit him to go.

Each community must determine the quality of education which its youngsters will have. The people must understand and appreciate good schools. There must be genuine cooperation between school and community for school progress. Opportunities for it will be found in the work of the Parent-Teacher Association, and in day-to-day contacts betwen school and home.

One of the critical problems in education today is a serious shortage of qualified teachers. Young men and women, who by ability and personality should develop into good teachers, can be encouraged to enter teaching. Each community can help the situation, also, by retaining the good teachers it already has. Public understanding and appreciation are important to the retention of good teachers.

Personal responsibility for good schools cannot be delegated safely to others. It does not end by merely paying the school bill without protest or complaint. Instead, each of us should be accurately informed about our schools. We should be personally acquainted with the school staff, particulary our children's teachers. It is when we have direct information that we can tell the difference between valid criticism and malicious rumor. The people in America have made a large investment in education. They should work together and with the school themselves to make sure that their investment is sound.

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